

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----231651Z 058290 /41

P 231636Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6749

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 05133

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, PARM, GW, BR
SUBJECT: INTERNAL SPD VIEWS ON THE FRG-BRAZIL NUCLEAR
AGREEMENT

SUMMARY: BRUNO FRIEDRICH, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE SPD
PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, HAS TOLD US THAT THE SENTIMENT
WITHIN THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP AND WITHIN THE PARTY
AGAINST CANCELLING THE GERMAN-BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR AGREE-
MENT IS MUCH STRONGER THAN REFLECTED BY CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT.
END SUMMARY.

1. BRUNO FRIEDRICH, A NORTHERN BAVARIAN DEPUTY WHO IS
DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE SPD PARLIAMENTARY GROUP AND A LEAD-
ING FIGURE IN THE CENTER-RIGHT WING OF THE SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC PARTY, TODAY TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR
THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE SPD PARLIAMENTARY
GROUP FULLY SUPPORTED CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S OPPOSITION
TO CANCELLATION OR AMENDMENT OF THE GERMAN-BRAZILIAN
NUCLEAR AGREEMENT. FRIEDRICH SAID THAT THE PARLIAMEN-
TARY GROUP HAD ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BEEN READY TO EXPRESS
ITS FEELINGS ALONG THESE LINES BUT THAT THE TOP SPD
LEADERSHIP HAD OPPOSED ANY SUCH STATEMENTS BECAUSE THE
LEADERSHIP BELIEVED THEY WOULD FURTHER ENFLAME THE
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ATMOSPHERE. HOWEVER, FRIEDRICH SAID THE PARTY DID NOT
ONLY "SUPPORT" ANY POSITION THE CHANCELLOR TOOK AGAINST
CHANGING THE AGREEMENT, BUT WOULD IN FACT "PUT
PRESSURE" ON THE CHANCELLOR AGAINST ANY SUCH CHANGE.

2. FRIEDRICH SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN DISTURBED THAT
BRANDT, EHMKE AND BAHR WERE THE FIRST SPD LEADERS TO

TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE HE BELIEVED THOSE THREE FIGURES DID NOT ACCURATELY REPRESENT THE VIEW OF THE PARTY MAJORITY ON THIS OR ON OTHER ISSUES. THEREFORE, HE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED US TO REPORT WHAT HE REGARDED AS A MORE ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF PARTY SENTIMENT.

3. FRIEDRICH SAID THAT ONE OF THE DILEMMAS FOR THE SPD IN DEALING WITH THIS ISSUE WAS THAT IT WAS A WORKERS' PARTY, AND THAT IT WAS PROUD TO BE A WORKERS' PARTY IN PERHAPS THE ONLY EUROPEAN COUNTRY WHERE THE WORKERS WERE GENUINELY PRO-AMERICAN. HOWEVER, HE WARNED, THAT WORKER SENTIMENT ON THIS ISSUE COULD BE ENFLAMED IN AN ANTI-AMERICAN DIRECTION, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND WORKERS WHO MIGHT LOSE THEIR JOBS IF GERMANY FAILED TO ADVANCE IN THE HIGH TECHNOLOGY NUCLEAR INDUSTRY BUT ALSO BECAUSE GERMAN LABOR AS A WHOLE TOOK GREAT PRIDE IN HAVING THE FRG REMAIN IN THE FRONT RANK OF WORLD TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS. HE SAID GERMAN WORKERS WOULD RESENT ANY SUGGESTION THAT THE GREAT POWERS WOULD DENY THE FRG SUCH A PLACE.

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4. FRIEDRICH ADDED THAT ONE OF THE POINTS THAT PARTICULARLY TROUBLED THE SPD PARLIAMENTARY GROUP WAS THE FEELING THAT THE US WAS TAKING A VERY TOUGH STAND AGAINST THE GERMAN-BRAZILIAN AGREEMENT BUT WAS NOT PROCEEDING WITH SIMILAR VIGOR AGAINST ALLEGED ATOMIC WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA, ISRAEL, AND SOUTH AFRICA.

5. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR EXPLAINED THAT THE US POSITION WAS NOT INTENDED TO DENY GERMANY A FRONT RANK IN TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS AND WAS NOT MOTIVATED BY COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS, BUT IN FACT CONCERNED ONLY THE DELIVERY OF CERTAIN PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY. FRIEDRICH EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS POINT, BUT HE REITERATED HIS CONCERN THAT THE US MIGHT UNDERESTIMATE THE DEPTH OF FEELING ON THIS QUESTION IN THE SPD.

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6. COMMENT: FRIEDRICH IS, OF COURSE, CLOSE TO SCHMIDT, AND COULD BE EXPECTED TO EXPRESS AND REINFORCE THE CHANCELLOR'S VIEWS. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NOT ALL TRADE UNIONS (E.G. THE COAL MINERS) OR SPD PARLIAMENTARIANS WOULD FULLY AGREE, BUT FRIEDRICH'S POINT ABOUT THE DEPTH OF FEELING AMONG SUBSTANTIAL WORKER AND PARTY ELEMENTS

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Message Attributes

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